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**Elbert H. Gary**

President, American Iron and Steel Institute

At Semi-Annual Meeting

New York

October 22, 1920

ADDRESS BY

**ELBERT H. GARY**

PRESIDENT, AMERICAN IRON & STEEL INSTITUTE

AT SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING, HOTEL COMMODORE, NEW YORK CITY

OCTOBER 22, 1920

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#### THE SITUATION IN FRANCE AND BELGIUM

Adopting the suggestion of a member of this Institute, I will on this occasion speak of the situation in France and Belgium, respectively, as it appears to me after a sojourn of two months in those countries. During my vacation I was in Belgium for about a week, a few days in Spain, and the remainder of the time in France.

The present conditions are, as a matter of course, closely related to and influenced by the terrible and destructive world war, which was precipitated August 1st, 1914, and ended with the armistice of November 11th, 1918.

I spent four days and a large portion of another in traveling by motor over the battlefields in Belgium, and six days of about twelve hours each in France. In the former I was accompanied, in some parts, by a Belgian

Major, who was an active participant in the military campaigns, and, in other parts, by different well-posted gentlemen. In France, a large part of the time, I was under the leadership of the distinguished, able and well-informed engineer, Colonel Philippe Bunau-Varilla, an active member of the General Staff, who had charge of the supply of water to the army and was wounded high unto death by aeroplane bombs, losing one leg and suffering a fracture of the hip and spine. These wounds would certainly have caused his death, except for the prompt, heroic and skillful attention given to him by the wife of the noted surgeon and scientist, Dr. Carrel, herself a professional of great skill and distinction.

In Belgium, I visited Malines (Mechlin) by motor, the home of the world-admired Cardinal Mercier, whose heroism and tact at a critical period astonished the German leaders and probably saved thousands of lives, and whose palace was struck by German shells. From there I proceeded to Louvain, whose magnificent library building and priceless contents, together with scores of other buildings in the City, including the cathedral, were ruthlessly destroyed or badly damaged. On my return to Brussels I visited, in the outskirts of the City, the place where Edith Cavell was shot by a firing squad. If it could be admitted that she had technically violated the military rules, the Germans made a great blunder for they killed a pure and well-intentioned woman and brought upon themselves the condemnation of almost the entire universe. Scores of others, including one woman, were shot at the same place at various times, many of whom

were doubtless innocent. Another day I visited the large steel plants near Liege, and, still another day, those at or near Providence. These will be referred to later. One day, practically from daylight to darkness, was occupied in going to Courtrai, Messines, Kimmel Hill, Ypres, Dixmude and many other localities where previously thriving villages or cities had existed. Later I traveled along the coal districts, first in Belgium and thence westerly along the same ridge into France.

Still later, I crossed the battlefields in France from east to west; and north to south, taking in the principal locations and following the lines of march and battle of the different divisions, Americans, French, English, Canadians, Belgians, Australians and Moroccans; yes, and Germans.

Doubtless you have heard more than once that it is already becoming too late to see the evidences of war. This is emphatically erroneous. We could wish the contrary. Much of the devastated territory will not be restored for many years to come, and some of it probably never. There are districts, for instance, in the vicinity of Ypres, Chemin des Dames, Verdun, Rheims, and many others, where for miles upon miles every square foot was fought over many times and everything above ground was either totally destroyed, or nearly so—villages, cities and forests; and even the surface of the ground was churned into great masses of rough and irregular shapes. Buildings were ground into atoms, so that the places of hundreds of previously existing villages can now be located

only by signs which have been temporarily placed there. In many places thousands of trees along the roads and in forests were cut off down to the ground. Highways, railroads and other improvements were torn up and many destroyed. There are many farm lands where shell holes thickly cover a large territory, some of them forty or fifty feet across at the top and not less than ten feet deep. There are numerous great craters caused by the blowing up of mines, which resulted in heavy loss of life. At present there may be seen tunnels through hills, and trenches, dug-outs, "pill-boxes" (or German concrete buildings for the protection of men and their cannon placed at advantageous positions), barbed-wire barricades, one behind another, miles deep, wire enclosures for prisoners, debris of all sorts, including disabled tanks, caissons, cannon and war materials, used and unused, improvised railroad tracks running in every direction, huge piles of steel scrap, road-building and other dirt-removing machines. The wonder is that so much damage and ruin could be wrought, even in four and one-half years, and greater wonder that, with such intensity and force of powder, dynamite and other explosives, acids, liquid fire and gases, which often destroyed even deep trenches, any human beings, especially the majority, could have survived.

I have no doubt that next summer and later there may be seen miles of territory, in France especially, which bear witness to destruction and devastation far greater than the human mind, prior to the late war, could have imagined possible.

You should visit Europe and for yourselves visualize the horrors of war and thus be more competent to pronounce against it except as a last and desperate resort.

In the cities, such as Ypres, Arras, Lens (the great coal center), Rheims, Verdun and scores of others, there appears to have been a disposition and effort to destroy the finest buildings, including the large cathedrals, hotels de ville and other public buildings. Much of this, no doubt, was the natural and perhaps legitimate result of military conflict; but a good deal was caused by the Germans from motives of spite or for purposes of intimidation. The cathedral at Rheims, which was nearly destroyed, the library building and many other structures at Louvain, and large numbers of cathedrals and other public buildings at other places, might and should have been spared. There were coal mines and factories which were purposely and maliciously destroyed, some of them outside of the regular line of march or the zone of battle. The firing upon Paris by the Big Berthas, which badly damaged the Church of St. Gervais and killed 90 occupants and injured the Madeline and other buildings, and the dropping of bombs upon innocent people living in undefended and defenseless cities was unjustified and wanton. The City of Senlis, about twenty-five miles from Paris, was practically destroyed by dynamite in August, 1914, and the Mayor, and six other citizens were placed against a wall and shot for the alleged reason that the Mayor had not ordered all inhabitants to deposit their shotguns at the City Hall as the Germans had previously directed by proclamation.

Referring to the principal steel mills in Belgium and many in France, the Germans, at the beginning of the war, removed some of the best mills and machinery to their works in Germany, operated portions that were left intact and imprisoned for months or years many of the managers. About or a little after the time the United States entered the war the Germans practically destroyed what was left at these plants using dynamite or other explosives, or big hammers or the torch.

But there is evidence to show that many of the buildings in cities or villages were damaged or destroyed in legitimate warfare; many of them by the Allies. In motoring through these places one will find still remaining many walls, or parts of them. Some contain holes made by shells of large caliber. From the holes in, or marks on, the walls it is usually not difficult to determine the direction from which the shells were fired. Moreover, remaining walls of buildings along either side of the street contain innumerable marks or bullets made by rifle shots. The slant of the holes or marks indicate which direction the shots came from. In some cases they came from the Germans; in some cases from the Allies; and more frequently from both.

It should be remembered that armies practically cannot proceed except over public highways; also that in France the farmers congregate in villages, instead of living upon the farms as they do in the United States. Also, in considering this matter it must not be forgotten that a defending army seizes upon every means of defense, utilizing the buildings and stone walls of a village or

city whenever possible. Consequently, the approaching army is compelled, by the use of large guns, to raze the buildings and walls before entering the village or city. This was true of both armies. I know it has been said that when the German army retreated it viciously destroyed all the villages it passed through. The statement should be modified. I saw several places where previously existing buildings were completely demolished during the retreat of the Germans admittedly by American soldiers. And when we consider that as the German army was compelled to protect its rear columns to enable the army to escape it seems reasonable to suppose that the buildings were occupied by German soldiers and guns and that the Americans were justified in destroying them. Indeed, there are many cases where the villages were finally cleaned up by hand-to-hand fighting, and some of our soldiers actually went into occupied rooms in buildings and bayoneted German soldiers at their guns. Several were decorated by the Government or military commanders for doing so.

I am not suggesting that the German soldiers would not or did not perpetrate many dastardly acts of violence, cruelty and destruction; however, it is wise and politic to be accurate and fair in discussion concerning the conduct of anyone, even a bitter enemy. A different course generally weakens the whole argument, including that which is sound and based on the facts. It is not remarkable that the minds of men and women throughout the world became abnormal and uncontrol-

lable. On the contrary, it is gratifying that larger numbers have not become demoralized.

Just now it is especially interesting to note what is being done in Belgium and France towards reconstruction and rehabilitation.

Of first importance, always, is the question of food and shelter. In devastated districts in both countries diligence has been used in clearing and leveling farm lands and raising crops. Much has already been accomplished, though there is still more to be done. In Belgium, particularly, large numbers of new and additional brick-yards have been established, brick are being manufactured and many new brick buildings are completed or in process of construction. This is true to a somewhat less degree in France. Hundreds, and perhaps thousands, of new cheap frame buildings have been erected in each country where villages were destroyed. It is said many have been provided by relief agencies or associations. Parts of buildings where walls were left standing, have been roughly enclosed and are occupied as family residences. In Belgium, and to a less extent in France, many sheet iron camp buildings, which in shape are represented by the half of a large tube, were left by the British army and are occupied by families. In some places, dug-outs are thus utilized. In short, everything at hand which is usable has been appropriated for shelter. Of course, the chief difficulty in more rapidly providing homes for those whose property has been swept away is the lack of money, with which you are all familiar, and towards which you have contributed and

are contributing. The sight of deprivation and suffering is sad and pitiful and all of us are glad we have been able to render some assistance. It is to be regretted that our heavy and burdensome income taxes make us all comparatively poor.

At the steel mills in Belgium and France they are working day and night to rebuild and they will somehow and in some way soon be on a full working basis, better equipped than ever, though the lack of money and the rates of foreign exchange are perplexing and troublesome. I asked some of our friends in charge when they commenced to rebuild, and generally received the answer that on the next day after the armistice they began work by studying, making plans, etc.

I left Brussels, on my return to Paris via the battle-grounds of Belgium and France, at daylight and on the streets saw men and women at or going to their work. Also, on the farms there was the same activity. In the country districts of France, coming from the extreme south to Paris on my return from Spain, I saw the same thing. Sad to say, however, I noticed generally that the larger numbers of working people were old men or young boys or women. Between fifty and sixty-six per cent of the stalwart young men of France lost their lives or were permanently disabled during the war. This is perhaps true of Belgium.

It will be appreciated that the life and spirit of the inhabitants of these ravaged countries, including cities villages and elsewhere, are not yet the same as before the war, notwithstanding you may have heard the contrary.



There is a sombre atmosphere, strikingly noticeable to a visitor—less gaiety and liveliness. Cripples are not much in evidence; complaints never heard. Amongst the masses there is a good-natured, grim, persistent and splendid effort to succeed, to restore and to recover. They realize that hard work is necessary; that they must help themselves to the full extent of their ability; and they are willing and cheerful. They mourn for the loss of home and property and more for the loss of friends, but they are practical and reasonable. They are thrifty, and France and Belgium have a good future in consequence. This is a candid and not overdrawn statement of the situation as it appears to me from close observation.

Added to this is the all important fact that the Governments of the two nations are prompt to consider the interests and necessities of the people. The King of Belgium is beloved and trusted by his people and reciprocates by studying their needs and desires, and does all that is humanly possible to contribute to their welfare. His ability and wisdom are unquestioned. All this I obtained from the lips of many persons in different walks of life, for I made it a business to inquire whenever opportunity offered.

Likewise, I think France has one of the best administrations she has ever had. The new President is strong, resourceful, honest and has the confidence of everyone. The Cabinet is made up of good men. We shall see great progress economically, financially, and commercially during the next few years.

I have referred to the great majority of the inhabitants of these respective nations, one a republic and one a monarchy, but both truly democratic. I know of no democracy more real and genuine than Belgium. Still, I think it must be admitted that the virulent, obnoxious germ of bolshevism, which means anarchy, the rule of individual force directed against law and order and liberty, has been brought to these countries by vicious, unworthy and selfish persons, and that to some extent others have become infected—some perhaps innocently, but most of them because they are of the criminal class. However, the Governments are strong and vigorous and will have the support of the large majority of the people in the protection of property and home and family. Most of the men, and practically all of the women, are industrious and in a measure are or will become property owners, and, especially, do they love peace and progress and prosperity. Millerand, with all his ability, firmness and fairness, and King Albert, with his solid, clear-visioned and noble disposition, backed by their respective parliaments, will be a bulwark against the encroachments of crime and despotism. The only true road to progress and prosperity is marked by the direction signs: "Law and Order", "Hard Work", "Economy", "Saving". This route the greater number of the citizens of France and Belgium are pursuing. This will eventually lead them to a restored and rehabilitated country, better and stronger than ever before and quite likely sooner than most of us have realized.

On the whole I am of the opinion that both France and Belgium should be well satisfied with conditions and prospects. They are making good progress and with increasing momentum. They are in better shape than I had expected to find them. Rates of exchange are unreasonably high and almost prohibitive, but foreign money is being received in larger and still larger amounts by reason of growing exports and otherwise, and eventually these will, we hope soon, have a decided and beneficial effect.

Both France and Belgium need and deserve all the financial and commercial assistance from the people of the United States that is proper, reasonable and practicable, and this will be accorded.

Before I left the United States for Europe, I heard it stated on more than one occasion that Frenchmen were much dissatisfied with, and in fact more or less bitter towards, the attitude of Americans concerning the after-effects of the war. Naturally, I took particular pains to ascertain the facts in regard to these matters. It was my good fortune to meet large numbers in France, including working people, shopmen, business men, newspaper men and public officials, and I am fully satisfied that there is no just ground for the assertions referred to. There may have been utterances of this kind by a few but, if so, they do not represent the current of opinion. I heard only one unfavorable criticism and I think it was made on the basis of a misunderstanding. It related to the proposed League of Nations and it was made under the mistaken belief that the American people had promised to

ratify the proposed League in the form reported. The French are very friendly towards Americans and they are deeply grateful for the service rendered during the war. The relations between these two countries are more cordial and better than ever before, and they ought to be. Emphatically this sentiment also applies to Belgium.

#### THE AMERICAN SOLDIERS.

I have heretofore, in addressing representatives of the iron and steel industry of the United States, spoken of the splendid services rendered at critical times by the soldiers of different countries serving with the Allies. All this was true and not overstated or exaggerated. None can study the situation on the battlegrounds without being thrilled by the valor, heroism and sacrifices of these men.

On this occasion, I deem it appropriate to briefly allude to the American soldiers in connection with this stupendous world combat. I followed their marches and lines of battle from the start to the finish. Their bravery was never excelled. Their efficiency, hardihood and military success on the average was equal to the best ever known. This is testified to by the leading officers of our associates in the war. They possessed qualities not previously understood or reckoned with by the Germans; and they were victorious by reason of these qualities. The Germans were scientific and methodical to a degree never before possessed by large armies. Their preparations for offense and defense, their accuracy in calculation as to distances and concentration, their discoveries and developments concerning implements of warfare and

munitions together with their application, their means of transportation of all supplies, their general tactics, were all marvelous and astonishing. But they were lacking in one thing the American soldiers possessed in larger degree and that was resourcefulness and initiative in times of sudden emergency. If the Germans' war machinery, organization and system, so perfect in construction and use, suddenly failed at any point, like the breaking of a belt or cog, the difficulty apparently could not be readily overcome; while the Americans were keener and quicker in perception and execution at critical moments arising unexpectedly.

I may mention three instances: At Cantigny, the First Division (the first Americans to arrive in France and the first to go into action as an independent factor), secured a substantial victory. Cantigny was situated on a high ridge and the German army was contiguous, occupying the ridge and the slopes. The position had been held as impregnable for a long time. The Americans were located on a similar ridge, some distance to the west and southwest. There is a valley between of considerable width. Without exposing their contemplated action the American troops concentrated their men, guns of all calibers, munitions and other supplies, aeroplanes, gas facilities, foodstuffs, etc., and on May 28th, 1918, at 5:30 A. M. (the zero hour), with 250 pieces of Allied artillery, the village of Cantigny and trenches adjacent were deluged with the largest and most destructive shells, and the stone walls of the village soon began to crumble. At six-thirty o'clock, under the protection of

an adequate barrage, the Americans at double-quick charged across the valley and up the slopes, shooting and bayonetting and smothering with gas the German soldiers, and then drove the survivors to the farther slope of the ridge. Before the enemy could recover, the Americans established themselves on the easterly ridge, of which the Germans could not and never did regain possession, although they several times attempted to do so. A fine stone monument, designed and donated by the American artist Joe Davidson, with its bronze tablets, informs the visitor of the names of several hundred American soldiers who sacrificed their lives, in perhaps as many minutes, in a demonstration of the idea that well-directed, rapid, desperate and persistent fighting at great sacrifice will save the largest number in the long run. The village of Cantigny was practically annihilated.

This brilliant, intelligent and sturdy assault by the American officers and soldiers startled and frightened the German troops, and from this fright they never fully recovered.

Of Chateau Thierry you are perhaps well informed. The American army, including the famous Second Division, was stationed at the point of the salient which the enemy had driven into the territory of the Allies. The Americans were commanded to hold their position on the south banks of the Marne. With the most stubborn and sanguinary fighting, they maintained the position with alternating fluctuations, most ably sustained by their artillery. Finally, by great determination and courage they drove the enemy across the river and back

into the village. With superb intelligence and quickest perception they measured the strength and morale of the Germans at that point and they clearly comprehended the exact situation. Contrary to, or at least in excess of, their orders the Americans with almost superhuman speed crossed the river on hastily placed pontoons or bridges previously prepared by the engineers corps, and then assumed an offensive with such force and skill that the Germans slowly, though with desperation, retired until the retreat was converted into a rout.

These successes demoralized the whole German army. They could not then nor ever afterwards recover and re-establish their lines.

This initial offensive was seized upon by General Foch to immediately develop and energetically push and continue a general movement which he had previously contemplated and carefully planned. It was indeed the beginning of the end.

Again about two months later, with various successes intervening at Belleau Wood, St. Mihiel and other important places, it was decided by General Foch and others, including General Pershing, to assault the enemy at the Argonne Forest, so-called, a strip of woods about five or six miles wide and perhaps twenty-seven miles in length, with open land adjacent on either side. This stronghold had been held by the Germans for four years. All conceivable measures for defense had been perfected, caves, dug-outs, "pill-boxes", trenches, fortified positions, barb-wire fences in the forests, miles deep, and various arrangements for enfilading an approaching army had

been provided. Telegraph and telephone wires in great abundance had been constructed. Places of occupation for living, training and recreation had been built underground, means of receiving supplies of every kind, including reinforcements when and as needed, had been arranged for. At Montfaucon near the forest, the Crown Prince had established his headquarters in a strong cement structure and underground caves, with observation tower from which, through a periscope he and his staff could see long distances. This was probably the best protected defensive fortification ever designed and completed. Previous attempts to take the position had failed with great loss of life and diminished morale of the Allied army, and after the expenditure of large sums in preparation.

General Pershing, at his own request, with an army 1,100,000 strong, was assigned to the task of driving out, capturing or killing the Germans defending. It was argued that no other army, in view of past experiences, would have the dash and even reckless courage to attempt this herculean task. General Foch seems to have appreciated the argument. You know the rest. After careful, consistent and well-considered preparation, the offensive was commenced and pursued day after day without interruption until the Germany army, or such parts as survived, were forced to evacuate and the American soldiers enabled to occupy positions which permitted them to reach with their big guns the Metz-Lille supply railroad. This meant to the Germans surrender or destruction.

*This great victory broke the German army's back.* There was never afterwards any hope for victory to the arms of the Central Powers.

When all the facts and figures are assembled, authenticated and published, I think it will be generally admitted General Pershing at Argonne led the largest independent army and gained the greatest single victory in the history of battles. All honor to him and to the multitudes of men who fought under him!

But there is glory enough for all the armies of all the countries who were arrayed against the German soldiers. Except for the brave, efficient, sacrificing and magnificent soldiers of Great Britain, France, Belgium, Italy and their allies, American soldiers and American interests would have been jeopardized, if not destroyed. We cheerfully acknowledge our obligations to all of them.

The right has prevailed. Freedom, liberty and justice have been re-established; but at enormous cost. Millions and millions of men have been lost. In the battlefields are hundreds of cemeteries containing the bones of fallen soldiers of all nationalities. At Belleau Wood alone there are 2,600 graves of American soldiers, and at the Argonne cemetery not less than 21,000. There are others containing large numbers; all beautifully adorned and kept, and under the control and direction of representatives of the Y. W. C. A., who live in rest houses adjacent. The grave of Quentin Roosevelt, which I visited, is alone in a field where he fell in battle. There has been erected a plain and simple monument to a brave and patriotic young man, the son of a great man and profound scholar,

of supreme and generous devotion to his country, who, together with all the members of his family, has ever been respected and loved by the American public.

I think ex-President Roosevelt was right in desiring to have the body of his son permanently buried where he fell in battle. It is a mistaken judgment on the part of friends and relatives of deceased soldiers to request or wish their remains taken up and removed to the United States. From either a sentimental or practical standpoint, they should be left where they were originally placed. Careful and honest inquiry will convince anyone that the opinion thus expressed is justified by the facts.

#### THE BUSINESS OUTLOOK.

Although this is a time for courage, composure and caution, the business skies are practically without clouds. As always, there may be showers from time to time, but there is nothing in the atmosphere to indicate the approach of dangerous storms. It is up to the business men and women to maintain certain and continuous business activity in satisfactory volume with fair and reasonable profits. If there should be a serious reaction and depression, which now seems improbable, it will be the fault of those who are connected with business operations or others who, by reason of official positions, improperly interfere, and not because of any fundamental deficiencies in our resources and opportunities. We may without hesitation face and discuss any and all facts that bear upon the subject of future economic progress, and we may frankly and openly admit any truth which concerns

the immediate future even though it might, in some respects and to some minds, appear to be unfavorable.

In certain lines of the iron and steel industry there have of late been some decreases in the volume of new business and also voluntary reductions in selling prices. I consider this decidedly healthful. All, or nearly all, of us have for months been unable to supply the demands of our customers as to quantities or deliveries and our prices, considered as a whole, have resulted in profits. As a matter of course some adjustments will need to be made. The average of the general scale ought to be reduced equitably and relatively. Without referring to individual cases or lines of general business, I believe in many instances prices have been outrageously high. This observation applies more especially to middlemen, so called, and to smaller departments of industry. It also includes employes in certain trades; but it does not pertain under present conditions to the masses of workmen.

Labor questions are always under consideration in this country and others. It should be constantly borne in mind that, in order to secure the best results to both employe and employer, mutual confidence and friendly co-operation are essential.

The present tendency is toward a lower, more reasonable and fairer relative basis. The whole community desires and strives for this. The difficulty is found in the fact that every individual is perfectly willing that all others shall make reductions,—the larger, the better. As there was, more or less, a scramble for higher and still higher prices when they were advancing, there will be

just as much selfishness in the enforced use of brakes when there is a tendency toward decreasing prices. Now a general public, including particularly those who are neither sellers nor buyers to a large extent, will in one way or another bring about a fair and reasonable adjustment of prices. The law of supply and demand will be the principal factor.

We naturally ask ourselves what shall we personally do; what shall be our attitude in these circumstances? I answer: We must evidence the same disposition which was displayed before the Industrial Board, in March, 1919, when our steel committee co-operated with the Government's representatives in the endeavor to secure a general, equitable, orderly and methodical reduction in the prices of all commodities and services. We would have succeeded except for the sudden change in the attitude of the Administration which resulted in the abolition of the Industrial Board and thus limited the leaders in the industry to their own resources. Notwithstanding that episode we have done since then much to prevent unreasonable advances and at present we are called upon to exert a further steadying influence upon the general situation. Let us be reasonable and just, reducing our prices if and when other reductions and costs permit, and then with level heads, clear minds and honest convictions, stand solid as against panic or lack of confidence in the industrial situation. Let us strive to be right. If we are right we can be determined and courageous. Let us as individuals consider the interests of all others. Our business is basic. It is perhaps one of the most important. We may, we

must, exert an influence for stability throughout the business world at a time when readjustments are, more than usual, liable to provoke disturbed conditions.

The people of the United States have reason for confidence in the business future. They need not be discouraged nor impatient. They have only to look about them and study the facts and figures. We have recently had opportunity to read the report of the Comptroller of the Currency. He informs us that the resources of all the banks of the United States break all records and exceed the combined bank assets of all other leading nations of the world and that they now amount to \$53,079,108,000, not including Federal Reserve banks! Compare this with the time of Alexander Hamilton, Secretary of the Treasury of the United States, who wrote under date of February 26th, 1793, to The President, Directors and Company of the Bank of the United States, as follows:

"I have to request that you will be pleased to advance to Samuel A. Otis, Esquire, the sum of Fifteen Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy two Dollars and Ninety Cents on Account of the compensations due to the Senators of the United States.

"As I have been informed that the bill, making appropriations for the present year, has passed both Houses of Congress, I hope to have it in my power very shortly to replace this sum, as well as the monies which have been hitherto advanced by you for the Public service, in compliance with my several requisitions for that purpose."

You are familiar with the total wealth of the United States and the value of the yearly production. I have previously referred to them, and made comparisons with other countries. Our people should be thankful but they may not be proud nor indifferent towards others. They have great responsibility. They will size up to it. Occasionally there will be unpleasant vicissitudes. There will be agitators abroad in the land endeavoring to create dissatisfaction and disturbances, sometimes masquerading as reformers. There will be secret enemies of our country; and all right thinking people must be on their guard. Love of country is the rule. Indeed it is the habit.

I think the members of the Iron and Steel Industry of the United States, up to the full limit of propriety, should cooperate with those of other countries. I have information that many foreign manufacturers will be glad to participate with us in another international meeting. In the near future questions pertaining to this subject will be discussed by your board of directors, to whom you have always delegated full authority.

The onward march of progress is moving rapidly. We may and will be a part in the procession and, in a measure, assist in guiding the course. I have heretofore publicly said, quoting from the Bible: "As no man liveth to himself so no nation liveth to itself". This is applicable to the present period.

When we consider the world's disasters, destructions, agitations, distrusts and vicious propaganda, the wonder is that business during the last few years has been so

good and our country so prosperous as it has been. Gentlemen, the earth is still regularly turning on its axis, the seasons come and go, the fields laugh with the harvests, the mines and wells yield their riches, the morals of the people in general are improving and an overruling and just Providence is surely controlling the destinies of men and nations.



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